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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council

## **FULL COUNCIL REPORT**

Date Written	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Report Author	Mark Thomas / Louise Ballinger
Service Area	Corporate Services
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2017

*To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen*

# **Auditor General's Annual Improvement Report 2016/17**

## **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive the auditor General's Annual Improvement Report for 2016/17 which has been prepared by the Wales Audit Office.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that**

- 2.1 The Auditor General's Annual Improvement Report be received.

## **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) requires the Auditor General to undertake a forward-looking annual improvement assessment, and to publish an Annual Improvement Report (AIR), for each improvement authority in Wales. Improvement authorities (defined as local councils, national parks, and fire and rescue authorities) have a general duty to 'make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of [their] functions'.
- 3.2 The Auditor General's Annual Improvement Report draws on the work of the relevant Welsh inspectorates, and his own work.

## **4.0 ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2016/17**

4.1 The Annual Improvement Report for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council was published by the Wales Audit Office on 18<sup>th</sup> July and is attached for information.

4.2 The report sets out what the Council needs to do to improve its services. The report states that:

Given the wide range of services provided by the Council and the challenges it is facing, it would be unusual if we did not find things that can be improved. The Auditor General is able to:

- a) make proposals for improvement – if proposals are made to the Council, we would expect it to do something about them and we will follow up what happens;
- b) make formal recommendations for improvement – if a formal recommendation is made, the Council must prepare a response to that recommendation within 30 working days;
- c) conduct a special inspection, publish a report and make recommendations; and
- d) recommend to Ministers of the Welsh Government that they intervene in some way.

4.3 During the course of the year, the Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations to the Council. However, lower-priority issues, known as proposals for improvement, are contained in other reports to the Council and are referred to later on in his report. The Auditor General also makes recommendations that may be relevant to the Council in his Local Government National Reports. Progress on implementing these recommendations is reported to Corporate Management Team and Audit Committee on a rolling programme basis.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

5.1 None specifically identified in this report although good corporate governance supports sound financial management and helps maximise financial resources and minimise losses.

## **6.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full assessment is not required at this time. The form can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

**GARETH CHAPMAN**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE**  
**& CORPORATE SERVICES**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
AGW Annual Improvement Report	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Attached to this report and on the Wales Audit Office website
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		<b>No</b>

***Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.***